Open Secrets

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Assassination Records Review Board In Trouble Half Life, Funding Threatened

by John Judge

The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, proposed as House Joint Resolution 454, became Public Law 102-526 on October 26, 1992. The original legislation proposed nominating and approving a board to review government agency requests to postpone release of any document, and set a deadline of late January, 1993 to put it in place.

Under the law, this Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) will have extensive powers, at least five members, an executive director and a small staff (up to 40). The Board has the final say (unless the President reverses a decision) concerning the release of any document or record from any federal agency or subcontractor, the mandate to identify and pursue "assassination related" records, full power to subpoena documents or testimony, the right to investigate any destruction of records, and the duty to ask foreign governments for similar files from their archives. No document can be withheld from public scrutiny without their approval, and even then release can only be postponed until a date or event certain. The only items excepted by the law are the autopsy photographs and other "deeds of gift" given to the Archives by the Kennedy family. It is not yet clear whether the Board will agree to use its subpoena powers.

The ARRB was expected to operate for a period of two years (i.e. October 26, 1994), with the option that it could decide to extend its own life for an additional year (to 10/26/95). Only a majority of Congress, under the law, would have the power to continue the life of the Board beyond that period. Given the potential volume of released and challenged documents, an enormous task faces the Review Board members and staff, and even a three-year period might not allow them to finish it.

President Bush, presiding during the initial 45-day nomination period allowed to selected professional organizations, declined to appoint any members before leaving office, and actually took the nominations with him, included in his protected White House papers. President Clinton's administration had the opportunity to meet the initial deadline for appointments, but did not act until October of 1993, sending the last name on November 4 for Senate approval, almost a year later than had been required by law.

All five nominees were eventually given full security clearances and accepted:

John R. Tunheim, the Chief Deputy Attorney general of Minnesota since 1986, coming from private law practice and prior work as a field representative for Senator Hubert Humphrey.

Anna Kasten Nelson, a professor of history at American University, and former head of George Washington University's History and Public Policy program, is an outspoken advocate of freedom of government information.

Kermit L. Hall, Dean of the University of Tulsa's Kendall College of Arts and Sciences, he taught history at several universities, and is an expert on American history and law.

William L. Joyce, an associate librarian from Princeton University for rare and special collections since 1986, is a mem-

see page 2

Contents

Open Letter to Researchers	2
Call for Documents	3
Three Decades of Doubt	4
Congressional Alert	5
In the Files	6
No Smoking Gun	7
Off the Press	7
Coalition By-Laws	8
Visit Archives II	11
Resources	11

First Grassroot Coalition Growing

The new Coalition on Political Assassinations was formed on the 30th anniversary of the murder of John F. Kennedy, at a Call to Action meeting in Dallas. Three organizations, the Assassination Archives and Research Center and the Committee for an Open Archives in Washington, DC, and the Citizens for Truth About the Kennedy Assassination joined in February, 1994. The membership of these groups represents professional researchers, authors and investigators, medical, photographic and criminalistic experts, from the United States and abroad. These experts have worked for over three decades to resolve the unanswered questions in the murders of President Kennedy, his brother Robert and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Coalition reflects the vast majority of the American people who believe that there was a conspiracy involved in the death of President Kennedy. We agree that none of the official investigations by the Warren Commission, Congress and the FBI were adequate or complete, and that the official conclusions are flawed. Our additional points of unity are:

- No sole assassin was responsible for the assassination.
- The government is still withholding critical information, in violation of existing laws, obstructing the right of the people to know the truth about the murder of their president.
- Serious unanswered questions and cover-ups remain in other major political assassinations.

Our first goal is to secure full disclosure of U.S. and international government records on these assassinations, working closely with the Assassination Records Review Board appointed by President Clinton to secure release of these long-hidden files. We hope to extend this process and openness to the records in other major assassinations. We plan to

see page 10

Review Board (Cont.)

ber of the Society of American Archivists.

Henry F. Graff, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University, he is author of The Presidents: A Reference, a standard in the field. Graff served as historical consultant to Time, Inc. in the 1950s and '60s, and was appointed by President Johnson to the National Historical Publications Commission, and is now on the Board of Directors of Rand McNally, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

The Senate moved in a timely fashion to hold hearings, interview and approve the candidates. A swearing-in ceremony took place at the Senate on April 11, 1994 and the Board met for the first time the following day in the National Archives room once used for meetings of the Warren Commission. They appointed John Tunheim as Chair. Half of its potential life had already been exhausted by this point, and the Board soon moved to extend its life until October 26, 1995, calling on Congress to further prolong its existence at a meeting on July 12.

In early June, technical amendments to the original law were drafted on both sides of Congress. The Senate version, which is expected to pass soon, gave the Board a new three-year lease, beginning with the fiscal year on September 30, 1994. The House version (HR 4569) passed on July 12, but added less than a year to the original period, ending operations on September 30, 1996. These differences will have to be ironed out in conference, and the Coalition and the Board are pushing for the Senate version to prevail.

Other amendments allow the Board to hire up to five current government employees, but only for clerical and administrative work; to hire prospective staff before their security clearance investigations have ended; to fix salary without regard to civil service procedures; and to use the federal supply and mail service as other agencies do.

The new Board moved to meet a 45-day deadline on naming an Executive Director, and appointed David G. Marwell, Ph.D. Marwell is an historical scholar, holding a doctorate from SUNY Binghampton in New York. President of the American Historical Association of Berlin, Marwell spent the last six years as Director of the Berlin Document Center, an archive of over 25 million Nazi-era personnel-related files, and a crucial source during the Nuremberg Trials. Only July 1, he presided over the transfer of these records, held under American control for 48 years, to the German Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv), having computerized, microfilmed, and modernized a once neglected collection.

Prior to that, Marwell was Chief of Investigative Research at the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, preparing cases against accused Nazi war criminals residing in America. He was also responsible for assembling all records and evidence relating to possible connections between U.S. institutions or personnel and Nazi criminals Joseph Mengele and Klaus Barbie.

To date, most of the meetings have been open to the public, but not announced in advance. At the end of August, the Board plans to open offices in Washington, and to begin to hire staff once the new fiscal year budget is approved. The Board will be seeking input from organizations and researchers concerning documents, and may hold hearings in Washington and elsewhere starting this fall. An annual report of the board, technically the second, is due October 26, but the Board will have to report on it's first six months at that point. The Board has also missed an original deadline of 180 days from enactment of the law to begin review of records marked for postponement, with monthly notifications of its decisions in the Federal Register.

Other deadlines prevail under the law, but not all have been met. All government agencies were given a 300-day deadline, until August 23, 1993, to locate, tag and transfer all "assassination-related" records in their possession to the National Archives, for public release within 30 days after they arrived unless marked for postponement review. Some agencies, like CIA, complied in part, while others have yet to release a single item, including those related to military intelligence and the Pentagon. The FBI balked at release of thousands of HSCA files relating to organized crime, asserting that they were not related to JFK's murder. The National Security Agency requested postponement on many more files than it released, and provided only a few documents that were not already public. This was one year after the law had passed.

Oversight of the process by Congress is handled by Rep. John Conyer's House Committee on Government Operations, and Senator Glenn's Governmental Operations Committee under the Senate. On October 20, 1993, attorney James Lesar and Professor John Newman testified before Conyer's committee, noting that

see next page

Open Letter to Researchers

ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC
August 8, 1994

Dear Dr. Newman;

The Assassination Records Review Board is preparing to begin its responsibilities to (1) identify all records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and (2) review postponed records and information for public release. The Review Board has hired its Executive Director, David Marwell, and plans to open its office in Washington before the end of August. On the agenda the Review Board this fall are public hearings designed to help the Board define "assassination records" and locate relevant documents.

The Review Board invites the research community to assist the Board by identifying relevant assassination records that should be the focus of the Board's review. It would be particularly helpful to the Review Board if organizations would collect information about assassination records and forward that information to the Review Board. Individuals are of course welcome to contact the Review Board directly once the office is opened. The Review Board is firmly committed to moving quickly to accomplish the law's important goal of public disclosure of the records associated with the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board needs and welcomes the assistance of the research community.

Sincerely,
John R..Tunheim, Chair
102 State Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155-1002
612-296-2351/ 297-4193(fax)

Review Board (Cont.)

the law was being poorly enacted and that only 20% of relevant, known documents had been released after one year. While documents continue to be released, the public will not see a full release until the Review Board begins its work, the research community identifies and pursues release of the key document groups, and the government agencies here and abroad are contacted and pushed for release by an active Executive Director and a concerned Congress. Real success may require extensive use of the subpoena powers of the Board as well, only time will tell. Additional oversight hearings are overdue.

An additional hurdle plaguing the Board has been lack of funding. The law provided for operating expenses to come from the President's discretionary budget. Only after repeated requests by members of the Coalition and Chairman Tunheim was the White House moved to provide temporary funding in June ($250,000) to last until October 1, this year. At that point, the new fiscal year, Congress must approve or deny full funding, recommended by the Congressional Budget Office at $2.4 million per year. The current funds do not allow hiring of staff or full operation until then.

Funding is a two-step process, authorized by legislation and appropriated by Congress. The full House has already approved the requested amount. On the Senate side, however, the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, chaired by Senator DeConcini proposed to cut funding to all executive advisory committees, including the Review Board. After discussions with Senator Glenn, Senator DeConcini is reported to have offered a reduced annual budget of $2 million for the ARRB, cutting funds almost 20% each year and reducing staff by 10% or more in the face of an already overwhelming task. At this point, members of the Senate subcommittee will have to meet with their House counterparts, to decide on a final version of the appropriations bill. That meeting has been delayed by the extensive debates on health care and crime, but is expected to take place soon.

The Coalition has acted to support full funding for the Board, and extension of its life, sending a letter signed by members of our Executive Committee to Congressional offices. We have been urging people to contact, by phone, letter or fax, the offices of Senators Dennis DeConcini and John Glenn, as well as other conference committee members (Senators Mikulski, Kerrey, Bond, D'Amato, Byrd), and Representatives John Conyers and Stenny Hoyer, who heads the House appropriations subcommittee. The Coalition issued a Legislative Alert, and our board members mobilized hundreds of contacts from around the country. Senator Glenn has responded in several letters, renewing his commitment to full funding. We will continue to press for a functional, funded Review Board to ensure full release.

We have been reminding members of Congress that the original purpose of this law was to restore public faith in government operations and openness, and that these delays and funding problems have frustrated the function of the Review Board and the presumption of release for almost two full years. A similar process of delay and underfunding threatened the progress of the earlier House Select Committee on Assassinations investigation as well. This goes against the majority of the public, who have supported opening the files, even those who do not believe there was a conspiracy involved in the case.

The files that have been released to date are already making the historical record clearer, and many new facts, insights and pieces of evidence have been discovered. The public interest in this collection is rivalled at the Archives only by the constant stream of individuals seeking genealogical history. According to Archivist Steve Tilley, in charge of the JFK collection, it is the most highly requested government records group. The process necessary to secure full release has yet to begin, and our Coalition is assisting the Review Board in identifying critical files not yet made public. The success of the Review Board process and this law will have an impact on the potential release of other assassination-related documents concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, as well as public access to our own history in many areas still under government control.

Call for Document Lists

by John Newman, Ph.D.

The road to life for the JFK Assassination Records Review Board has been a slow and tortuous one and funding obstacles still remain. A fledgling structure should be in place by the end of August, with staff hiring expected to start at some point later in the fall. The time has come for the research community to support this process by identifying select assassination-related records still withheld or missing for the Review Board's attention.

The Coalition on Political Assassinations is in touch with the Review Board and the National Archives. We are willing and able to assist you in lobbying for the release of documents. We are presently compiling our first composite request to the Board. The most recent researcher requests have come from Joseph Backes, Wallace Milam and Gary Shaw, Peter Dale Scott, Mary Ferrell and Jim Lesar. I have several of my own to add, but I would like to see at least two or three dozen more. We want to present the Review Board with a package which represents a broad spectrum of the research community.

If you would like to add something, this would be the perfect time to send us a note. Try to keep it under a page, and include as much identification as possible on source, topic, date and relation to the assassination. Send it to Coalition on Political Assassinations, Records and Review Board Committee, P.O. Box 772, Washington, DC 20044-0772. Feel free to send a note any time.

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Three Decades of Doubt - National Conference in Washington, DC

The first National Conference of the Coalition on Political Assassinations, "Three Decades of Doubt," will be held at the Washington Sheraton Hotel in D.C., from October 7-10, 1994. Professional papers will be presented by medical, photographic and ballistic experts, independent researchers and authors, academics and scholars. Recognized experts will present professional analysis of recently released documents and long-standing evidence. Benefits from this conference will go toward efforts to continue the ongoing investigations into major political assassinations and to secure full release of all government documents. Professional panels, topical workshops, and various working panels and Coalition boards will meet during the busy weekend. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn, to be heard and to take action. Join us at this historic event, 30 years after the Warren Commission Report was released. Now we want the truth.

Purpose

This is the first national gathering of a grassroots effort that will continue to grow. Our purpose is to bring together a wide range of independent researchers and investigators, press and media representatives, and others interested in the political assassinations of the last three decades. We hope to combine their research, skills and energy, allow them to see newly released records and examine new evidence, and present and compare their own work at special-topic workshops. We will also be presenting major new findings at our public panel presentations. This Conference will lay the foundation for our message to be heard where it counts, in the halls of Congress and the White House. It will assist the working relationship between the serious researchers and the new Records Review Board. It will reach the American people through national media coverage. And, it will lay the foundation for ongoing citizen action, full release of the files, public education, and a resolution of the questions that have remained unanswered for so long.

Major Revelations, Expert Speakers

Major revelations are expected from the new JFK assassination files, breaking developments in medical evidence, new photographs, and news of other assassinations. What follows is only a partial list of topics from over 40 scheduled speakers:

Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D, The Oswald File Story: A New Look
John Newman, Ph.D, Lee Harvey Oswald
Dr. Gary Aguilar, M.D, JFK Autopsy Photos: Reason for Doubt
Dr. Cyril Wecht, M.D., J.D. Medical Evidence
Dr. Randy Robertson, M.D.,Radiologic Evidence of Second Wound in JFK's Skull
Dr. David Mantik, M.D, Autopsy Skull X-Rays, Brain Volume
Brad Parker, Personal Recollection of a Parkland Physician, Ronald Jones, M.D. and JFK's Wounds
James and Margaret Snyder, Ph.D. & MLS A Critique of the "Jet Effect"
Hal Verb: JFK: The First Shot Was Not the Missed Shot
Theresa Seay, M.A, An Overview of the Assassination
Michael Parenti, Ph.D, Conspiracy Phobia and JFK
Dr. Carrie Foster, Ph.D, Teaching The Historical Context
William Wolfram, The Forgotten Struggle: Kennedy-CIA Deep Politics Preceding the Assassination
Michael Morrissey, The Bay of Pigs Revisited
Wayne Smith, Ph.D, Kennedy and Castro
William Kelly, Collins Radio and JFK
William Turner, The Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy
Wallace Milam, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Lloyd Jowers
Philip Melanson, Ph.D.,Robert F. Kennedy Assassination
Walt Brown, Ph.D,The Warren Ommission
Gaeton Fonzi, The Last Investigation, the HSCA and Mexico City
Jim DiEugenio, Jim Garrison and the New Evidence
Paul Hoch: Paradoxical Secrets: Simultaneously Related and Not
Robert Groden, Photographic Evidence and Dis-information
Jerry Policoff, A 30-Year Media Cover-up
Terrence Ripmaster, Mainstream Media and the Assassination
John Judge, Modus Operandi: Parallels from JFK to Reagan

Researchers' Meeting

This is a conference by and for serious researchers. Unlike earlier symposiums and conferences, the proceeds from this gathering will go towards the work of the Coalition, supporting full disclosure of the files and ongoing investigation of the unsolved major political murders of our era. The leading experts in the field will be presenting new evidence, and researchers will have a chance to meet, network and compare notes in special-topic workshops. The various working panels of the Coalition, and our advisory and governing boards will be meeting as well.

Washington, DC

We chose to hold our National Conference each year in Washington, DC, since we can have an impact on Congress and the national media here, we are close to the new Archives II in College Park, MD which houses the JFK Assassination Records Collection of files released since 1992, and we hope to have contact with the new Records Review Board as well. This is also the historic location of the Kennedy family grave site at National Cemetery, and walking tours of the Kennedy homes are available. Regional conferences will be held each spring by the Coalition, and our first choice is New Orleans in 1995.

Registration

Registration for the Conference can be done by mail, since we do not accept credit card payments. Our fee is $150 until October 6 for the four day event. For those who reserve rooms at the Sheraton under our special conference discount, we will reduce the fee to $125 per person. Call the Sheraton soon, space is at a premium in October, (202) 328-2900.

Travel Discounts

We have arranged fare discounts with our official carriers, American Airlines and Amtrak, for all Conference participants. All American flights originating in US or Canada between October 5 and 12, 1994, coming into Dulles International, Baltimore/Washington (BWI), or DC National airports will qualify for discounts. To book these flights, call (800) 433-1790 between 7 a.m. and 12 midnight, and refer to the Coalition on Political Assassinations Conference, and StarFile #S-3704GC. Regular coach fares, made 7 days in advance, will be reduced 10%, and

see next page

discounted fares made 14 days in advance are reduced 5%.

Amtrak trains travel city to city, cutting local transportation costs, and provide scenic, comfortable travel. Amtrak will allow a special 10% discount off round-trip regular or excursion fares from any point outside Washington, DC, including Montreal, Canada. Call your travel agent, or Amtrak at 1-(800) USA-RAIL for reservations. When you call, mention special Fare Order #X22-Q951 for the Three Decades of Doubt Conference.

Local Transportation

The Sheraton Washington hotel is easily accessible from DC National airport and Amtrak Union Station by Metro subway, Washington Flyer shuttle, or cab. Inexpensive shuttles and trains are also available at BWI and Dulles airports. The hotel sits directly above the Woodley Park/Zoo stop on the Metro Red Line, providing cheap, quick travel around town. The Conference will arrange for transportation on Friday, October 7 to the Congressional offices and the National Archives II building in College Park, MD. You will be in walking distance of the National Zoo and the Adams Morgan area of town, filled with a variety of ethnic restaurants and interesting shops along Connecticut and Columbia Avenues.

Schedule and Agenda

A final schedule has not been set, but many registrants are planning to spend an extra day (October 6 or 11) in Washington to allow access to the new files, visits to the Assassination Archives and Research Center, and historical sites. Conference registration and activity will begin on Friday October 7, the last day Congress will be in session for 1994. If you plan to lobby your local representative or state senator, contact them in advance to arrange a visit to their office. Groups can be more effective than individuals.

Archives II will be open October 7-8, then closed until the 11th. Computer search requests should be sent in advance, indicating pick-up date. No file or search request will be honored after 3:00 p.m. Friday, October 7 for that evening and the next day, but files can be held overnight.

A press conference on Friday afternoon will be followed by our keynote address that evening, speakers to be announced. Saturday and Sunday will be full meeting days, including both large and small gatherings in the various conference rooms. Special topic meetings will doubtless go on into the evenings. On Monday morning meetings will continue, with a wrap-up session at mid-day so people can begin travel home.

Call to Action

The underlying purpose of this conference is to bring to light new and compelling evidence in these murders, and to work together toward their resolution. Our Coalition grew from and continues a Call to Action. We are the only national, grassroots organization combining organizations and individuals to work towards full disclosure and open investigation in these assassinations. We are working on your behalf in the Nation's Capitol to open the files and get at the truth. We hope you will become a full member of the Coalition if you have not already, and will participate in our Working Panels and future events, our public education and speaking campaigns, and our watchdog activities and legislative alerts concerning Congress and the Review Board. We look forward to seeing you in October.

Congressional Action Alert

To assure a full life and full funding for the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB), we are asking members to contact by phone, fax or mail various Congress members responsible for oversight or key committee votes on these subjects. Act soon in order to have an impact on the vote before the end of the month.

The technical amendments were drafted and passed by the House as HR 4569, with changed marked up by the Senate to include a three-year extension of the ARRB, starting September 30, 1994. This version will be voted on again by the House after the September recess. Contact your local Representative at 202-224-3121, and the oversight committees: House Government Operations (Rep. John Conyers) and Senate.Governmental Affairs (Sen. John Glenn).

Funding is in the hands of a joint conference committee of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. We are asking that the $2.4 million annual budget approved by the House be maintained. Contact any or all of the following members of the joint conference committee:

Senator	Phone	Fax
Dennis DeConcini	202-224-4521	Not public
Barbara Mikulski	202-224-4654	202-224-8854
Robert Kerrey	202-224-6551	202-224-7645
Robert Byrd	202-224-3954	Not public
Christopher Bond	202-224-5721	202-224-8149
Alfonse D'Amato	202-224-6542	202-224-5871
Mark Hatfield	202-224-3753	202-224-0276

Or write to: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Representative	Phone	Fax
Stenny Hoyer	202-225-4131	202-225-4300
Peter Viscloskey	202-225-2461	202-225-2493
George Darden	202-225-2931	Not public
John Olver	202-225-5335	202-226-1224
Tom Bevill	202-225-4876	Not public
Martin Sabo	202-225-4755	202-225-4886
David Obey	202-225-3365	202-225-3240
Jim Lightfoot	202-225-3806	202-225-6973
Frank Wolf	202-225-5136	Not public
Jim Istook	202-225-2132	202-226-1463
Joseph McDade	202-225-3731	202-225-9594

Or write to: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

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Our Governing Board will award a $100 discount on our National Conference fee to anyone able to come up with a better name for this newsletter by October 1, 1994

In the Files

Excerpted from Prof. John Newman's testimony to Rep. Conyer's oversight committee on November 17, 1993

There are, I believe, troubling aspects surrounding the allegations of an association between Oswald and his murderer Jack Ruby. It is troubling not because such allegations can be proven or not, but because they reveal dramatic gaps, contradictions and possible deliberate obfuscation in the official records of this case.

Allow me to illustrate this point. John Franklin Elrod, an unfortunate alcoholic who happened to be walking along the railroad tracks not far from where Kennedy was shot on 22 November 1963, was thrown into the Dallas jail, arrested on suspicion of involvement in the assassination. He claims that in 1964 he told the FBI in Memphis that Oswald had identified another prisoner, one Lawrence Miller, in the jail that day. Miller had been arrested two days earlier with Jack Ruby's auto mechanic Donnell Whitter with US Army weapons stolen from National Guard Armory in Terrell, Texas.

Elrod claimed Oswald spoke of a meeting he had attended with Miller and Jack Ruby in which a "contract" was discussed and money changed hands. The FBI report which went to Washington at the time, however, made no mention of Oswald as the source of this information. More troubling still, is the Dallas FBI attachment to Elrod's FBI interrogation, which attempted to discredit Elrod's claim by stating flatly that Elrod had not been in the Dallas jail at all that day. The FBI will have some difficulty then in explaining the Dallas police record of Elrod's 22 November arrest and incarceration in the Dallas jail, a record that did not surface until February 1992.

Another Dallas police document which has recently surfaced and which adds to the possibility that Oswald was associating with Ruby is a December 11, 1963 memo signed by Dallas Police Department Detective W.S. Biggio. This memo cites a report that Oswald had driven Jack Ruby's car several times prior to the assassination. Even though the original source was an unidentified auto mechanic of Ruby, no one in an official capacity ever asked Whitter, who was known to be a mechanic of Ruby's, about this. Moreover, it seems strange that a 14-page report on Donnell Whitter is still classified. As this withdrawal sheet indicates, this document was reviewed as recently as June 1993. I find the withholding of such documents unsatisfactory and not in the spirit of the Records Act.

Why did the Dallas FBI bureau conceal Elrod's 22 November incarceration in the Dallas jail? Perhaps it was an innocent mistake. Those of us who have served in government are all too familiar with sloppy records. It strikes me that it was precisely to get at documents like these that the JFK Records Act was passed, and I have great reservations with "closing the case" before having seen all of the evidence. I thought that one of the reasons for the passage of the Records Act was to allow the people to look at all of the evidence before drawing a conclusion one way or the other.

Did the CIA, contrary to decades of denials, debrief Oswald? The new release of files pursuant to the Records Act strengthens the evidentiary base for the proposition that the CIA did in fact debrief Oswald. Of particular note is the fact that the Chief of the CIA's Soviet Realities Branch—in the Soviet Russia Division of the Directorate of Plans—wanted to lay on interviews of Oswald at the time of the re-defector's return to the US in the Summer of 1962—a fact he recorded in a memorandum for the record three days after the assassination.

The House Select Committee rather foolishly ignored this memo simply because of a typographical error. Thanks to the JFK Records Act, we have a much more complete version of this memo, and what is new is that it was the Chief of the Soviet Realities Branch—or "SR 6" who wrote it. This branch was responsible, among other things, for creating—to use spy jargon, "painting"—covers or "legends" for sleeper agents in the Soviet Union and to brief employees on what it would be like to be a sleeper agent in the Soviet Union.

In addition, a memo from James Angleton's CIA mole hunting unit, the CI/SIG—which stands for Counterintelligence Special Investigations Group—has surfaced in these files with handwriting on it which gives the name of a CIA Domestic Contact Division employee—a name which appears to be one "Andy" Anderson—as a CIA contact for Harvey Oswald. This document—which, like the SR 6 document, was in a "soft file" meaning it was not in the original Oswald 201 file—confirms the recollections of other Clandestine Services employees that Andy Anderson did in fact debrief Oswald Don Deneselya, who worked in the Russian Branch, Foreign Documents Division, Office of Contacts [OO/FDD,USSR] read Anderson's debrief in 1962. The very branch chief in the Domestic Contacts Division who would have overseen incoming debriefs like Anderson's confirms that his branch recovered the debriefing from the field office that had it.

There is nothing conspiratorial about the fact that the CIA debriefed Lee Harvey Oswald. They should have. That was their job. The debrief was routine. The troubling aspect is why the CIA has doggedly denied a debrief ever took place. The answer to this question has really been available all along, and the answer is that this denial is part of a broader lie the Agency has been telling for decades: that they were not interested in Oswald.

This false statement of no interest in Oswald was not advanced to hide a routine debrief—an act which the Agency did do—but to excuse the Agency for an act it failed to do, namely, to launch a counterintelligence investigation of Oswald at the time of his defection to Russia. This failure was deeply troubling to the House Select Committee, which probed the Agency vigorously but unsuccessfully on this question. For 14 months the CIA failed to properly investigate Oswald, a man who left the U-2 spy base in Japan to defect to Russia and boldly announced his intention to commit an act of espionage.

Thus the debrief story is integral to the larger enigma of why, in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA was apparently asleep at the switch for 14 months. Perhaps because of the CIA's interest in and contact with Oswald the Agency panicked when President Kennedy was assassinated. Perhaps the cables indicating Oswald had announced his Intent to commit espionage were "lost," thus explaining the Agency's failure to do its job. Perhaps. Perhaps indeed, but perhaps not. I think it prudent to reserve judgment until we have all of the CIA's materials. One thing is certain: These new files make it clear that the CIA's past denials of interest in and contact with Oswald are not true.

No Smoking Gun, But Something Smells

by Jerry Policoff and John Judge

While there is not yet a "smoking gun" revelation in the government files released to date, researchers are uncovering important new information. Not even a third of the documents we know exist have been made public, and certain files hold the promise of unlocking the truth. Much that is new will be revealed in up-coming articles and books by Anthony Summers, John Newman, et al, and at the Three Decades of Doubt conference this fall. In the meantime, researchers report that available material includes:

• CIA reports on interviews with Priscilla McMillan (nee Johnson) describe her as a "witting collaborator" of the Agency. This adds to the suspicions of many researchers that she had close ties to the Central Intelligence Agency, a role she has always denied. McMillan, then Moscow correspondent for the North American Newspaper Alliance, interviewed the "defector," Lee Harvey Oswald in the Soviet Union — at the suggestion of the American Embassy. She later became a confidante of Oswald's widow and co-authored Marina and Lee with her. This book, and many Freudian OP-ED pieces written by Priscilla over the years have helped to reinforce the image of Lee Harvey Oswald as a hapless, maladjusted, lone assassin in the public's mind. Priscilla McMillan also played a prominent role in the 1993 "Front Line" special that painted a similar portrait of Oswald.

• Recently declassified files add new weight to previous speculation that medical evidence in the JFK case might have been tampered with. Autopsy Surgeon Pierre Finck, for example, told the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) that certain photos of the skull entrance wound are not among current material he was shown at the National Archives. He repeatedly insisted that a photo that is in the collection does not depict the wound he saw and directed to be photographed. The files also confirm, in the HSCA testimony of five witnesses, including all three autopsy pathologists, that photos were taken of the interior of President Kennedy's chest cavity. These photographs, if they still exist, are not among the supposedly complete collection of autopsy photos and X-rays housed at the National Archives. The presence of this testimony in the record brings into serious question the integrity of the findings of the HSCA, as well as casting further doubt on the official government findings.

• A recently declassified transcript of the HSCA's interview with former CIA agent turned Agency-critic, Phillip Agee, contains some tantalizing gossip. Agee confirms that he had heard "rumors" at the Agency that Lee Harvey Oswald "was our agent." Agee notes that, if so, the critical files would not name Oswald. "You are always referring to them by cryptonym." Agee adds that if Oswald had an operational relationship with the Agency, "They would have taken that file and put it somewhere where nobody could find it."

• A new document shows that on November 24, 1963, the day Oswald died, and two days after the Dallas murders, a memo passed from FBI agent Belmont to Clyde Tolson, DeLoach, Mohr and Rosen concerning plans to prepare a memo to U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach about Lee Harvey Oswald. They wanted to show that "...Oswald is responsible for the shooting that killed the President. We will show that Oswald was an avowed Marxist, a former defector to the Soviet Union and an active member of the FPCC [Fair Play for Cuba Committee], which has been financed by Castro." Before the Warren Commission had even been formed, the FBI seems intent on painting Oswald as an agent or dupe of Castro.

They planned to rely on the investigative findings of Dallas Special Agent in Charge, Gordon Shanklin, and sent two agents, Rogge and Thompson to secure the evidence and fly back "by Air Force plane" that night. Katzenbach was busy trying to "keep the Chief of Police and Lieutenant Fritz off television and radio," but wanted to put out a statement blaming Oswald, but noting that "the investigation...is continuing." Cartha "Deke" DeLoach, working with William Sullivan in Division V (Domestic Operations), "advised...that the FBI [was] opposed to any statement being put out along this line." Was their investigation finished?

• Jack Ruby's name appears in many of the documents. Perhaps the most interesting is an FBI form memo, sent to the Special Agent in Charge from agent Charles Alyer in Dallas, giving background on a "PCI", or Potential Criminal Informant. The "date developed" is March 11, 1959, and the informant described in detail is Jack Ruby, owner of the Vegas Club in Oak Lawn, Texas.

Off the Press

by Jerry Policoff and John Judge

Long-time critic and investigator **Harold Weisberg**, whose early Whitewash series demolished the Warren Report's methods and conclusions, had responded to Gerald Posner's Case Closed with a rebuttal published by Carroll and Graf titled Case Open. Weisberg will follow this with his latest book, Never Again from the same publisher, an autobiographical record of his struggle to reveal the facts, due in March.

Anchor Books has just published an "updated and restored" paperback edition of **Gerald Posner's** Case Closed, including a new author's note lamenting the "negative" and "often vitriolic" response to his book from "the conspiracy community." He indicates that, "many people who believe in a JFK conspiracy to do so with a religious fervor and are not dissuaded by the facts." Posner also erroneously indicates that Harold Weisberg's Case Open is that author's first by a legitimate publisher, and that "he had previously self-published six conspiracy books." In fact Case Open is Weisberg's sixth book to be published by a legitimate publisher.

Growing evidence indicates that Posner's book is dishonest. Researchers Gary Aguilar and Walter Brown have uncovered instances of misrepresentation and possible fabrication in Posner's reported interviews with witnesses. Our next issue will more fully expose the distortions and omissions of Case Closed.

Anthony Summers, author of Conspiracy, and his wife Robbyn will publish a major piece in the November issue of "Vanity Fair" magazine dealing with the current status of the JFK case. Significant revelations from recently declassified documents will be included in what promises to be an important and newsworthy article. That issue will also include a companion item by **Ray and Mary LaFontaine** dealing with evidence they have uncovered about the Dallas assassination. The LaFontaines, free-lance investigative journalists, will be releasing their own work, Oswald Talked: New Evidence in the Kennedy Assassination, from Peli-

see page 9

Coalition By-Laws

Article One: Name and Objective

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is The Coalition on Political Assassinations, herein also referred to as "COPA."

Section 2. Location. The principal office of COPA will be located in Washington, D.C., and/or such other location or locations as determined by the Board of Directors of COPA.

Section 3. Purposes. The purposes of the corporation shall be to further the public and open investigation and solution of the mysteries surrounding the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and others. The purposes include promoting governmental and non-governmental investigations, full release of all related information in foreign and domestic government possession and other efforts to resolve these mysteries.

Article Two:Membership

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership. COPA membership, in the various classifications subsequently prescribed, shall be available to applicants who agree to abide by the By-Laws for COPA, demonstrate agreement with the objectives of COPA, timely pay dues as are required by COPA, and whose application is approved by the Board of Directors. The application shall state the name, address, telephone number and occupation of the applicant, and shall be accompanied by the payment of dues as may be required by COPA.

In order to be approved as a member in COPA, each application shall be submitted to the Secretary at COPA's principal office in Washington, D. C., or at such other location as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Approval of any application for membership shall require the affirmative votes of a majority of the Board of Directors members in good standing who are present at the Board of Directors meeting at which such application is considered.

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Termination of Membership. Any member in good standing may resign from COPA at any time upon written notice. A membership shall automatically terminate if dues are not paid within sixty days after a statement for annual dues payment is mailed to the member; however, the Board of Directors may grant additional grace period to delinquent members in meritorious cases. Membership may be terminated upon majority vote of the Board of Directors, in which case a pro rata portion of the annual dues shall be refunded to the former member.

Section 4. Classes of Members. There shall be five classes of membership in COPA: (I) regular members; (2) sustaining members; (3) patrons; (4) benefactors; and (5) founding members. The amount of dues and other qualifications for each class of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. All classes of members shall be non-voting memberships.

Section 5. Annual Meeting of Membership. Between January I and April 30 of each year, a meeting may, but need not be, held for members to conduct business as may be determined by the newly elected Board of Directors. Written notice of such annual meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary at least thirty days prior to the day of the meeting.

Article 3: Board of Directors

Section I. Powers. The Board of Directors shall govern the affairs of COPA, including the establishment of policy and rules consistent with the objectives of COPA and these By-Laws. A quorum is required for all meetings and actions to be taken at any such meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may establish any rules, regulations, procedures, and take any action necessary to effectuate the functioning of COPA in a way consistent with its objectives, as long as any such rule, procedure, and action is not inconsistent with the express language of these By-Laws. The Board of Directors has the authority to approve, reject, or terminate memberships in COPA, and to appoint officers of COPA. Additionally, the Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee, consisting of five members, three of which shall be the Board Chairman (President) Secretary and Treasurer, and two other members of the Board. The Executive committee shall conduct the routine business of COPA, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors, and such other functions as may be determined by the Board.

Section 2. Members. The Board of Directors shall consist of at least six and such other members as may be determined by the Board.

Section 3. Elections. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by majority vote of the existing Board at the annual meeting of the Board and shall serve for terms of one year. Positions on the Board of Directors that become vacant between annual elections shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Annual Meetings. An annual meeting of the Board of Directors for purposes of election of members of the Board of Directors and the appointment of the Executive Committee and appointment of officers shall take place between January I and April 30 of each year. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the secretary at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 5. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held bimonthly on dates established by the President. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 6. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the board may be called by the President at any time or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least one-fourth of the members of the Board of Directors. Written notice of a special meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting and shall state the purpose of the meeting. No other business shall be transacted at a special meeting.

Section 7. Quorum. A quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 8. Meeting by Telephone: Any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors may be held by telephone conference call rather than in person, and a member who participates by telephone shall be considered present for purpose of any vote or other action taken by the board.

Article 4: Officers

Section 1. Positions. The officers of COPA shall consist of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at each annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. President. The President shall be a member of the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Board and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office or are properly required by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, documenting action taken by the board, and maintaining such other records as may be required by the President of the Board. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of all meetings, notify board members and officers of their election to office, keep a roll of the members with their addresses, and carry out such other duties incident to his/her office as the President may request or the Board assign.

Section 4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Corporation. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board in the name of the Corporation. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board, and he/she shall report to the Board at every meeting the condition of the Corporation's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported and at the annual Board meeting he/she shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. There shall be an annual audit of books and/or as otherwise directed by the Board.

Article 5: Working Panels and Committees

Section 1. The Board of Directors may each year appoint such working

see page 9

Off the Press (Cont.)

can Books by early next year. The book will deal extensively with John Elrod, the so-called "fourth tramp." Arrested on November 22, 1993, Elrod briefly shared a cell in Dallas with accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. What Oswald told him, if true (and the supporting evidence is persuasive), leads to an almost inescapable conclusion that the assassination of President Kennedy was a conspiracy that included, among others, Jack Ruby.

Dick Russell, who chronicled his own search for the truth about Kennedy's murder in The Man Who Knew Too Much is working on a new study concerning the possibility that U.S. government mind-control operations might have involved Lee Harvey Oswald. Targeted for release from Carroll and Graf in mid-'95, it promises to open a few minds.

Carroll and Graff will bring out Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA, by historian **John Newman** (author of JFK and Vietnam) next March. Newman has examined over 150,000 pages of declassified CIA documents and has conducted dozens of interviews in researching this book, whose revelations promise to seriously embarrass the CIA. Newman is also working on yet another book, JFK and Cuba.

Norman Mailer's forthcoming book, with the working title Oswald in Minsk will be published by Random House this year. Mailer has long and very publicly aligned himself with critics of the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission, however his book reportedly supports the hypothesis that Oswald acted alone. Mailer's co-author on the project is Lawrence Schiller. In 1967, Schiller assisted in producing another book, entitled The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report, a vicious attack on the early critics.

Walter Brown, whose The People vs. Lee Harvey Oswald used exhaustive research, hard evidence and sworn testimony to imagine the trial that never took place, had completed another assassination-related book. This one, Blue Death, Red Patsy, White Lies, is due out some time next year from Carroll and Graf.

Professor **Philip Melanson's** excellent book on Oswald's intelligence links, Spy Saga has been recently remaindered by Praeger, and is for sale at paperback price from discount chains. He compiles information from many sources to uncover unmistakable fingerprints left by American intelligence on Oswald's life. The files now coming to light promise to fill in the few remaining gaps that this book illuminates.

Dr. Cyril Wecht, who has performed over 12,000 autopsies, brings his medical and investigative skills to bear on the deaths of John and Robert Kennedy, Mary Joe Kopechne and other controversial cases in his new work, Cause of Death, out from Dutton. Forensic pathology has come of age technologically since 1963, and so must we

Robert Groden, a photographic analyst and major consultant for Oliver Stone's film JFK, has painstakingly compiled the definitive film and still photo study of the Kennedy assassination and its mis-investigation in his oversize Viking Studio Book release, The Killing of a President. The pictures are evocative and compelling, and each one serves as yet another piece of evidence and history. This is a basic visual reference, with many pictures that have never been seen outside the research community.

Despite a vicious attack by "Nation" columnist Max Holland in a recent History in Review, Berkeley Professor **Peter Dale Scott's** latest work, Deep Politics and the Death of JFK, from University of California Press, continues his collection of scholarly and incisive antidotes to Cold War historical paradigms. Scott goes "beyond conspiracy" to look at the underlying fabric of criminal activity, deceit and corruption that is "business as usual" in the United States government's post-WWII history. Scott is currently working closely with John Newman, excavating the new JFK archives for more gold, and he has an eye for connections that many others miss. His earlier work, Crime and Coverup, detailing the Dallas to Watergate nexus, has thankfully been reissued by Open Archive Press in Santa Barbara.

HSCA investigator **Gaeton Fonzi** takes us behind the scenes of a flawed Congressional effort to follow the leads and contradictions surrounding the death of JFK in his work, The Last Investigation from Thunder's Mouth Press. He has blown a train whistle on the continuing refusal by our government to face the facts. We can only hope that his revelations will help to reverse the double-entendre of his title.

A.J. Webberman and Quick Archives press plan to publish Patrick Did It, based on his interviews with Gerry Patrick Hemming, a participant in the Bay of Pigs operation. His earlier work, Coup D'Etat in America,was recently re-released in paper after years of scarcity. Also expect an Oswald biography by **David Lifton**, tentatively titled Oswald Led Three Lives, as well as books from Seymour Hersh and Gus Russo on the topic.

For current books and hard to find titles, try Last Hurrah Books
937 Memorial Ave. Williamsport, PA 17701

Coalition By-Laws (Cont.)

panels and committees as will advance the work of COPA in any areas the Board wishes to designate. The work of such panels and committees shall always be subject to the final authority and approval of the Board of Directors to aid on particular projects.

Section 2. Any working panel or committee, or appointment thereto maybe terminated by majority vote of the Board of Directors upon fifteen days' advance written notice to the appointees; and the Board may appoint successors to those appointees whose services have been terminated.

Article 6: Advisory Board

Section I. The Board of Directors may at its annual meeting appoint an Advisory Board of distinguished persons whose views, credentials, and expertise, may be helpful to the work of COPA. Membership to the Advisory Board is determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may establish procedures and purposes for the Advisory Board.

Section 2. Any appointment to the Advisory Board may be terminated by majority vote of the Board of Directors upon fifteen days' advance written notice to the appointee, and the Board may appoint successors to any appointee whose services have been terminated.

Article 7: General Provisions

Section I. Amendments to these By-Laws may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors present at any annual or regular meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that at least ten days advance written notice is mailed to each member of the of any proposed change to the By-Laws.

Article 8: Dissolution

Section 1. COPA may be dissolved at any time by vote of two- thirds of the Board of Directors present at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Coalition (Cont.)

serve as a public watchdog on the Congress and the national media coverage, and to reverse the current spin that the case is closed, and that nothing new will emerge from the released files. We plan to make the emerging new information in these files public.

The Coalition is working to combine the efforts of the diverse individuals and organizations in the research community toward our common goals. We are also seeking to enlist individuals outside our community, the new generation of questioners, and any organizational allies who share our beliefs and objectives. We want to educate the public through our speakers bureau, and the efforts of our working panels to uncover breaking developments and new evidence in these cases.

Our final goal is to seek the historical truth about these murders, to identify those responsible for covering them up, and to restore justice and democratic processes in our country. Please join us.

Growing Coalition

The Coalition on Political Assassinations, formed in February this year, is growing. Our initial Governing Board has more than doubled in size. Our Advisory Board now has 28 prominent investigators, academics, medical and photographic specialists, lawyers, authors and filmmakers, including Oliver Stone, Robert Groden, Jim Marrs, Mary Ferrell, and William Turner among others.

Numerous new working panels are chaired by leading experts in areas of investigation and research, including Professor Herbert MacDonell, a leading criminologist and forensic scientist, Dr. Gary Aguilar, and Professors John Newman and Wayne Smith, Ph.D.

The first major organizing conference of the Coalition was held April 22-24 in Washington, DC to begin work on our role as a watchdog on the Assassination Records Review Board process of releasing documents, and to coordinate national press and media strategy, fundraising plans, grassroots organizing and lobbying, and planning for our national conference, October 6-10 in D.C.

Our membership has increased to hundreds of people from around the country and the world, and we now have twelve Founding Members who have donated $1,000 or more, as well as dozens of benefactors, patrons and sustaining members who have sent their support. We are working hard to represent the broad spectrum of researchers and citizens who want to know the truth about the political assassinations that have shaped our recent history. We are the only national coalition effort on this important subject, and we are already having an impact on the unity of the researchers and the release of the files.

The Coalition has already made great strides in establishing working relations with the Review Board, pushing for legislation to extend its life, and analyzing the documents already released to the public. Public education and involvement is our next goal, and we will be building the national conference this fall as a first step. A mailing to thousands of people in the research community has been sent, and our newsletter has begun regular publication. Our Speakers Bureau is being organized, and events have already been requested in several cities.

We have established an office in Washington, DC, a new conference hotline, and will have a nationwide 900 number in place to assist in reaching Congress and communicating with the public. Our upcoming national conference will be the first of its kind in Washington, DC, presenting professional papers on critical aspects of the assassinations, and revealing exciting new documents and evidence from the files already uncovered.

The Coalition includes representatives of the Assassination Archives and Research Center, Citizens for Truth about the Kennedy Assassination, and the Committee for an Open Archives. We are seeking to include other organizations who support our goals and points of unity. We welcome your participation and support.

Governing Board

Gary Aguilar, M.D.
Daniel S. Alcorn, Esq.
James DiEugenio
Gaeton Fonzi
John Judge
James Lesar, Esq.
Philip Melanson, Ph.D.
John Newman, Ph.D.
Jerry Policoff
Janette Rainwater, Ph.D.
Cyril H. Wecht, M.D., J.D.

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Jim Marrs
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Michael Parenti, Ph.D.
Jane Rusconi
David Scheim, Ph.D.
Peter Dale Scott, Ph.D.
Chip Selby
Wayne Smith, Ph.D.
Oliver Stone
Josiah Thompson, Ph.D.
William Turner

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

The Coalition depends on you for ideas, action, research leads, expertise, volunteer work, breaking local news, publicity, events, public education, membership and financial support. Since our inception in Dallas, where we raised our initial funds and pledges, we have grown in membership and support.

The first step is to join the Coalition, become a member, and encourage others to do so. Membership entitles you to receive our newsletter, and to get notice of our national and regional conferences, and local speaking events. You will also receive special discounts on items available from our member organizations. You will be notified of legislative developments, new evidence, books and publications, other meetings, and news of the Review Board's work to release the files. You may also want to contact one of our many Working Panels, to join in the search for a solution to the case, or to support the work of the Coalition with your special skills or knowledge. You will also get advance notice, and low prices on any Coalition publications, including our reprint of the National Conference research papers chosen for presentation.

see next page

Coalition (Cont.)

If you visit Washington, D.C. the Coalition will assist you in your research at the National Archives II, or at the special collection at the Assassination Archives and Research Center. We are working here and around the globe to combine the efforts of the best investigators in these cases, and we are in touch with thousands of citizens who share our goals. Joining the Coalition will put you in touch with the various networks of researchers, and the new technology that is linking them.

The Coalition was established to combine the strengths of the existing national groups, and to unite the efforts of serious researchers in opening the files, and reopening the minds of the public, the attitude of the press, the interest of the Congress and White House, and the cases themselves. Won't you be part of this effort? We are close to finally getting the real facts in the murder of John F. Kennedy, and we want you to help us. We have put aside our differences of opinion to build on our shared knowledge and common aspirations. The process of opening these files will have an impact far beyond the Kennedy case, and the resolution of this murder will raise deeper questions about our democracy, about justice and government secrecy. It is time for our "perestroika".

The Coalition is established. We have the ear of the Congress and the respect of the Review Board and the media. Most importantly, we have your support. We now have 11 Founding Members, who have donated at least $1,000, and dozens of Benefactors ($500) and Patrons ($250). We also received donations from scores of Sustainers, who either sent $120 or are sending $10 or $20 monthly. These donations make it possible for us to budget ahead, and to know we can depend on a certain amount each month. Regular membership is $35 or more, and we now have 280 donors. Won't you become one of them as well. Working together, we can make a tremendous difference.

Please take a moment to become a member now, and to register for our National Conference. You won't want to miss it, and we don't want to miss what you have to add.This year is a critical time to act on these issues. Send your contribution today!

Visit Archives II

The JFK Assassination Records Collection is now stored at a new location in College Park, Maryland called Archives II, located at 8601 Adelphi Road, and is easily accessible by shuttle or bus from stops on the Green Line of the Metro system.

From the Sheraton, use the Woodley Park/Zoo Metro station, and take any Red Line train marked "Wheaton" to the Fort Totten stop. Switch to a Green Line train marked "Greenbelt" at the Ft. Totten station and get off at either College Park or Prince George's Plaza station.

At the Prince George's Plaza station, connect to a free white shuttle van marked "National Archives" on the Belcrest Road side of the station 15 minutes after every hour. The van returns at quarter to every hour as well. At either stop on the Green Line you can also use a free bus pass from the Metro station to board an R3 Metrobus going to Adelphi Road, which will let you off at the door of Archives II. These run more regularly than the hourly van.

In addition to this, Archives II has a free 700-space parking garage, and a space-available employee shuttle from the National Archives downtown building (7th & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW) every hour on the hour until 4 p.m. to and from Archives II.

The JFK Assassination Records Collection maintains a 22-page registry of record groups, general finding aids in bound volumes, and a 1,400 page, 4-volume subject list printout from their computer search database in the research room. Each document is tagged with organization; individual and subject names from the text for easy search and location. Computer searches by the Archives staff can be requested every few hours. Printouts will be held at the research desk, and can be arranged in advance by phone. Records will not be computer searched or pulled on request after 3:00 p.m., so call ahead to request records if necessary.

Records can be held overnight for up to three days. The Archive is open Mondays and Wednesday from 8:45-5:00, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:45-9:00, and Saturdays from 8:45-4;45. It is closed Sundays and national Holidays.

For special requests, speak to collection archivist Steve Tilly at 301-713-6620.

Resources

Assassination Archives & Research Center

Mexico City Report This long awaited 400+ page report from the HSCA details Oswald's alleged travels, activities and possible impersonators. $45/$30.00*

The LBJ Transcripts 275 conversations during November and December, 1963 involving Johnson and others discussing the aftermath. $70/$55.00*

**(special rate for AARC members and National Conference registrants)*

Connally Fragments File (Clips) $6.00

Case Closed File (Commentary) $15.00

CIA Inspector General's Report Recently released report on "Executive Action Capability" at CIA, ZR/RIFLE $22.00

New Files A helpful guide to JFK files turned over to National Archives $3.00

JFK Act Hearings Testimony of Lesar, Newman, Posner to Congress $20.00

Reprints (10¢/page for members)

Philip Agee interview HSCA 100pp

Col. Bob Jones interview HSCA 87pp

CIA release files (220,000pp) by item

FBI release files by item:

George deMohrenschildt (2,000pp)

Ruth Paine (2,000pp)

Michael Paine (1,700pp)

Annual membership to AARC $25.00

Call for additional items available or visit AARC, 918 F St., NW, Washington, DC. (202)393-1917 or 393-7310(fax).

Citizens for Truth About the Kennedy Assassination

CTKA publishes a monthly newsletter, *Probe*, subscriptions are $25 for 12 issues. The group works to open the investigations and pursue justice. Write or call CTKA, 2139 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90068. (213) 463-6792.

Committee for an Open Archives

Congressional watchdogs and activists concerned with freeing our history from government secrecy. They publish an occasional newsletter, *Prologue* which tracks release of the files. Contact them at P.O. Box 6008, Washington, DC 20005, or call (202)310-1858 for a sample issue. Membership is $25/year.

The Fourth Decade

A bi-monthly publication created by a national network of independent researchers since 1984. $20/year from Prof. Jerry Rose, SUNY College, Fredonia, NY 14063.

THE

COALITION ON POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS

PRESENTS

"Three Decades of Doubt"

A National Conference

30th Anniversary of the Warren Commission Report

October 7-10, 1994

Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C.

What's New in the JFK Assassination Files?
Update on the Assassination Records Review Board
Current Revelations in the Murders of MLK and RFK
Visit the JFK Assassination Records Collection at Archives II
Lobby Congress for Full Disclosure of the JFK, RFK and MLK Files

(Partial listing of speakers)

Dr. Cyril Wecht, MD,JD	John Newman, PhD	Dr. Gary Aguilar	Dr. David Mantik
William Turner	Jim DiEugenio	Wallace Milam	Martin Shackelford
Peter Dale Scott, PhD	Michael Parenti, PhD	Carrie Foster, PhD	Wayne Smith, PhD
Bob Groden	Gaeton Fonzi	Jerry Policoff	Paul Hoch
Dr Randy Robertson	Walt Brown, PhD	Philip Melanson, PhD	Theresa Seay, MA
William Wolfram	Michael Morrissey	William Kelly	John Judge

Sponsored by: *Assassination Archives & Research Center, Citizens for Truth About the Kennedy Assassination, Committee for an Open Archives*

Coaltion on Political Assassinations. Call (202) 785-5299 or write soon

WASH., D.C. GMF DCR#7 09/14/9

Coaltion on Political Assassinations
P.O. Box 722
Washington, DC 20044
(202) 785-5299

Address Correction Requested

Get Your Friends to Join!

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick MD 21702